



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little River Canyon
National Preserve

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Little River Canyon National Preserve News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –September 19, 2013

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Bridge on DeSoto Scout Trail

National Public Lands Day Activities at Little River Canyon National Preserve


Activities including a hike, trail bridge dedication, Trail of Tears talk, and trail work are scheduled for the 20th Annual National Public Lands Day at Little River Canyon National Preserve near Fischer Crossroads from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Saturday September 28, 2013. To access the location of the activities, visitors should follow the brown “DeSoto Scout Trail” signs on County Road 89 north of Alabama 35 and turn east on Oak Hill Road (CR 476) to Dunn Road for the temporary parking area to meet at 9:00 am. A gathering of staff, volunteers and the public will walk from the temporary parking area to the new DeSoto Scout Trail Bridge over Straight Creek for the 10:00 am ribbon-cutting ceremony. The roundtrip hike to the dedication is approximately five miles. Snacks and water will be available.

Following the ribbon cutting there will be a short presentation and activity in remembrance of the Trail of Tears, the forced removal of the American Indians from this area 175 years ago. Over 1100 people were removed through Fort Payne beginning departures on September 28, 1838.

After the talk volunteers prepared to do brush work and remove downed trees and limbs for several hours on the trail will join park staff to walk to project areas. Loppers and other hand tools will be provided. Participants should wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the walk and bring work gloves, insect repellent, water, and a lunch.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



The DeSoto Scout Trail project is a partnership project between DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon National Preserve, a host of volunteers, and donors including the National Park Foundation. The trail inspired a group to meet and they now call themselves the Little River Hiking Club. The public may access the trail at multiple locations including DeSoto State Park. The way to the southern trailhead of the DeSoto Scout Trail is over rough and narrow roads and cars are not recommended. Hikers should always be prepared for a variety of safety concerns including poison ivy, snakes, and changing weather.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three sites and 700 volunteers. It proved to be a huge success and has become a yearly tradition. National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that worked from 1933-1942 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage. In 2012 there were 175,000 volunteers nation-wide removing invasive plants, maintaining 1,500 miles of trail, planting 100,000 trees, and removing 500 tons of trash.

National Park Superintendent Gail Bishop and DeSoto State Park Superintendent Ken Thomas invite the public to participate in this event. For more information call (256)845-9605 ext. 205. You can follow our updates and find park pictures on Facebook at "lirinps" or visit our webpage at www.nps.gov/liri.